

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, June 11, 1970

## "Since Silent Spring"

The following is an excerpt found on page 16 of Frank Graham, Jr.'s new book, "Since Silent Spring," published this year by Houghton, Mifflin.

"Rachel Carson, like many other biologists, was aware of these ominous reports. Yet experienced biologists are human beings too; they read, they

listen, and yet they are not always stirred to action until the ominous rumble comes closer to home. For Rachel Carson that moment came with a letter from Mrs. Olga Huckins, a friend who had written for the Boston Post under the name Olga Owens. Mrs. Huckins and her husband, a civil engineer, maintained a private bird sanctuary -- two acres of fenced-in woodland, with a small pond -- behind their home in Duxbury... In 1957, the state sent spray planes over marshes in Plymouth and Barnstable counties as part of a mosquito control project.

But planes spraying deadly pesticides on mosquitoes are no more certain of their targets than are bombers unloading explosives and napalm on "military installations." Innocent bystanders often are hit just as hard. The spray planes repeatedly crisscrossed the Huckins' sanctuary, taking a heavy toll of birds. Outraged, Olga Huckins sent off a letter to the Boston Herald, detailing the incident. At the same time, she sent a copy of her letter, with a covering note, to Rachel Carson. Several years later Rachel Carson wrote to her: 'You deserve credit (or blame, according to the point

of view) for having brought my attention back to this problem. I think that even you have forgotten, however, that it was not just the copy of your letter to the newspaper but your personal letter to me that started it all. In it you told what had happened and your feelings about the prospect of a new and bigger spraying and begged me to find someone in Washington who could help. It was in the task of finding that "someone" that I realized I must write the book.'

Rachel Carson was horrified by the abandon with which chemicals were poured into the

environment, and by the flimsy justifications.....

## DUXBURY HISTORY IN SEPTEMBER

Justin Winsor's history of Duxbury will be reprinted by Goodspeeds on the occasion of the 350th landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and the 333rd year of the incorporation of Duxbury. The volume will be ready by September of this year.